In the Claims:

1.(currently amended) A method of making tablets of a cleaning composition or of a water-softening composition or tablet precursors therefor, comprising the steps of: ~~wherein:~~

forming a premix ~~is made~~ of cleaning or water-softening composition particulates and a lubricant;

providing the premix ~~is fed~~ into a feed port of an extruder; and

~~the~~ extruding the resulting mixture ~~is extruded~~;

wherein the extrudate ~~extrusion~~ is of one or more strands which are separated into tablets or scored into tablet precursors, shortly after their extrusion, either as-extruded or after a further post-extrusion enhancement treatment.

2.(currently amended) A method according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the step of:

providing a binder ~~is fed~~ into the feed port of the extruder ~~at~~ or at a point downstream of the feed port, wherein the binder is ~~being~~ a solid at room temperature but ~~being~~ is mixed in the form of a liquid with the cleaning or water-softening composition particles ~~as a liquid~~ or the binder becomes ~~becoming~~ a liquid inside the extruder.

3.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in claim 1 or 2~~ wherein the extrusion pressure is in the range from 0.3 MPa to 10 MPa.

4.(currently amended) A method according to claim 3 ~~as claimed in~~ claim 3 wherein the mixture is extruded at a pressure in excess of 1.2 MPa.

5.(currently amended) A method according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 4 wherein the mixture is extruded at a pressure in excess of 4 MPa.

6.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ wherein the extruder is a twin screw extruder with screw overlap, configured predominantly for extrudate advancement and not for mixing or shearing the extrudate.

7.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ wherein a strand is subjected to post-extrusion enhancement.

8.(currently amended) A method according to claim 7 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ wherein a strand is subjected to assisted post-extrusion cooling.

9.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ wherein the temperature of the material in the extruder is in the range from 40 to 95°C, preferably from 40 to 85°C.

10.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ wherein the lubricant is a liquid at room temperature.

11.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ wherein the lubricant comprises a sucrose ester or a sorbitan ester.

12.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ wherein the lubricant comprises a sucrose oleate.

13.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ wherein the binder is a material which is solid at room temperature but which is molten under the extrusion conditions.

14.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ wherein the binder is polyethylene glycol.

15.(currently amended) A method of making tablets of a cleaning composition or of a water-softening composition, or tablet precursors therefor, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

forming a premix ~~is made~~ of cleaning or water-softening composition particulates and a lubricant;

providing the premix is fed into a feed port of an extruder;

providing a binder ~~is fed~~ into ~~the~~ an extruder at the feed port of the extruder or at a point ~~or~~ downstream of the feed port, whereint the binder is ~~being~~ a solid at room temperature but is ~~being~~ mixed as a liquid with the cleaning or water-softening composition particles ~~as a liquid~~ or becomes ~~becoming~~ a liquid inside the extruder;

~~the resulting mixture is extruded~~ extruding the mixture at a pressure in excess of 4 MPa; and

the extrudate ~~extrusion~~ is ~~of~~ one or more strands which are separated into tablets or scored into tablet precursors~~, shortly after their extrusion,~~ either as-extruded or after the extrudate is subjected to a post-extrusion enhancement treatment step.

16.(currently amended) A method of making cleaning or water-softening composition tablets or tablet precursors therefor, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

providing cleaning or water-softening composition particulates ~~are fed~~ into the feed port of an extruder;

mixing a binder ~~is mixed~~ with the cleaning or water-softening composition particles, prior to, at the same time as, or after the cleaning or water-softening composition particles are fed into the feed port, the binder being a solid at room but is a liquid when mixed ~~temperature but being mixed~~ with the cleaning or

water-softening composition particles or which becomes ~~as a liquid or becoming~~ a liquid inside the extruder;

extruding the resulting mixture ~~is extruded~~ at a pressure in excess of 4 MPa; and

the extruded extrudate ~~extrusion~~ is of one or more strands which are separated into tablets or scored into tablet precursors shortly after their extrusion either as-extruded or after the extrudate is subjected to a post-extrusion enhancement treatment step..

17.(currently amended) A method according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 16 which comprises the further step of: ~~wherein a lubricant is mixed~~

mixing a lubricant with the cleaning or water-softening composition particulates to make a premix which is subsequently fed into the extruder.

18.(currently amended) A method of making cleaning composition tablets or tablet precursors, which comprises the steps of:

advancing ~~wherein~~ a pasty or plastic cleaning or water-softening composition ~~is advanced~~ in an intermeshing twin screw extruder;

extruding a ~~and extruded as a~~ strand which is separated into tablets or tablet precursors shortly after their extrusion, either as-extruded or optionally, subjecting the strand to a ~~after~~ post-extrusion enhancement prior to separating the strand into tablets or tablet precursors .

19.(currently amended) A method of making cleaning composition tablets according to claim 18. ~~wherein a pasty or plastic cleaning or water-softening composition is advanced in a forming extruder and extruded as a strand which is separated into tablets or scored into tablet precursors, shortly after their extrusion, either as-extruded or after post-extrusion enhancement.~~

20.(currently amended) A method for aiding the flow of ~~Use of a lubricant for the purpose of aiding the flow of~~ inorganic cleaning or water-softening particulate in an extruder which method comprises the step of:

providing a lubricant to the extruder.

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A tablet formed by a process according to claim 1 wherein ~~method or use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 20,~~ the resulting tablet has ~~having~~ a smooth skin and a core of consolidated particulate texture.

23.(currently amended) A method of washing wares or of softening water, using a tablet according to claim 22 ~~as claimed in claim 21 or~~ 22.

24.(currently amended) A method of lubricating a particulate material, the method comprising the step of:

mixing a sucrose ester, or ~~and/or~~ a sorbitan ester, or a mixture of a sucrose ester and a sorbitan ester with the particulate material.

25.(canceled)